



# Joint Project: Improving Water Management in Small Water Supplies in the NT

## Project Background

The *Improving Water Management in Small Water Supplies in the NT* is a two year project, jointly funded by the National Water Commission (NWC) and the NT Department of Housing, Local Government and Regional Services (DHLGRS). The project will be implemented and managed by the Water Quality and Treatment group in Power and Water Corporation's Remote Operations.

The project will initially develop and then support the on-going capacity of service providers to utilise the existing community water planning resources to develop Water Management plans for small water supplies in the Northern Territory.

## Project Purpose and Focus

The main purpose of this project is to build capacity among Shires, Outstation Resource Centres, Communities and related service suppliers, to better manage NT small water supplies to protect public health.

Primarily the project will focus on assisting service providers of water supplies to NT Outstations and Homelands develop and implement Water Management Plans.

## What is a Water Management Plan and why would you want one?

1. The aim of a Water Management Plan is very straightforward: To consistently ensure that the drinking water supply is suitable and safe for consumption.
2. Water Management Plans are water supply specific, and enable those responsible for managing small community water supplies to work in-line with the recommendations of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (NHMRC 2004).
3. Water Management Plans use a risk assessment and risk management approach that encompasses all steps in a water supply from the water source to the household tap.
4. The use of Water Management Plans is the most effective way to consistently ensure the safety of a drinking water supply.

### The water management planning process has four steps:

- Describe and map the water supply
- Identify hazards and management activities
- Manage assets
- Identify roles and responsibilities

### What does this project offer for Service Providers?

The two project objectives most relevant to service providers are:

1. Facilitate training of service providers to develop and implement Water Management Plans for small water supplies in the NT
2. Provide on-going technical support to service providers for the development, implementation, monitoring and review of Water Management Plans

It is anticipated that free Water Management Plan training workshops will be provided for community water supply service providers across the NT between March 2011 and May 2012. Details of the training workshop locations and dates will be available soon.

Ongoing technical support to service providers for the development, implementation, monitoring and review of Water Management Plans will be coordinated by Dagmar Schmitt, Project Manager Water Plans, located in Remote Operations Water Quality and Treatment section.

### What are the existing tools?

In recent years NWC has developed a number of community water planning tools to support people responsible for the management of smaller community water supplies:

- *Community Water Planner Tool*, information about the tool and how to access and order it can be found on <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/eh39.htm>
- *Physical, Chemical and Radiological Community Water Planner*, for more information go to <http://www.communitywaterplanner.net.au/login?return>
- *Field Guide Community Water Planner* This package is designed to assist water managers, service providers and Indigenous organisations working with remote communities to plan and implement water management programs for settlements with small water supplies. The [Community Water Planner Field Guide](#) can be downloaded as a series of PDF files.
- *Community Water Planner*, this tool was developed to help assess and manage risks in remote Australian Community Water Supplies, <http://staging.communitywaterplanner.net.au/login>

Training facilitated by this project will be utilising the *Field Guide Community Water Planner* package, and hardcopies of this package will be distributed at the training sessions.

### Project Contact

Please contact Dagmar Schmitt, Project Manager Water Plans via phone on (08) 8924 5211 or email [dagmar.schmitt@powerwater.com.au](mailto:dagmar.schmitt@powerwater.com.au) if you like to:

- Find out more information on the project
- Access technical support to develop or implement a Water Management Plan
- Register an interest for the upcoming Water Management Plan training
- Order a copy of *Field Guide Community Water Planner*